Economic Development & Culture Committee
April 9, 2019
Bonifacio Senior Center
7 East 116th Street, New York, NY 10035

***MINUTES***

Present: Jose Altamirano, Adem Brijia, Carlos Diaz, Melanee Farrah (Chair), Marissa Mack, Celia Ramirez, Jenny Tromski, Jesse Yang (Vice-Chair), Jose Altamirano, Edwin Marcial, Dawn Sanders, Vincent Torres

Absent: Candy Vives-Vasquez, Holley Drakeford, Davon Woodley

Excused: Angel Mescain (staff)

Guests: Kimber Bogard, NYAM; Angela Fuller, The Egg Roll Queen; Rebecca Montero, Spread MMMs; Sandy De Leon, Union Settlement; Madeline Britt, SBS; Carey King, Uptown Grand Central; Marie Rivera, CUNY; Dahyanna Caruyal, Pabade Bakery; David Andino, Positive Workforce; Jose Manuel Zavala Jr. Mama Margarita’s Food Ltd.; Pablo Guzman, Union Settlement; Regina McFadden, Shadeeska’s Sweets

1. Call to Order– Adoption of the Agenda

   The meeting was called to order at 6:45PM by Jesse Yang.

2. Announcements

3. Informational Updates

4. Community Notes

5. Presentations & Discussions

   a. Informational update from Hot Bread Kitchen by Michelle Rojas (Workforce Retention Manager)

      i. General Updates:

      1. Updates on Culinary Program
a. No longer operating from the bakery to an international culinary center in Soho
b. They can service 4x as many women
c. 4 week culinary training program
d. They place 100% of the women in kitchens in the 5 boroughs
e. Services they provide:
   i. Affordable housing
   ii. Accessing mental health services
   iii. Financial coaching program
2. They are hoping to improve communication with CB11
3. Issues
   a. Harlem location reduced kitchen use at night to one day a week. Local business owners who use that kitchen came in and expressed concerns not only at the change in days but also in the lack of communication on the part of Hot Bread Kitchen.
   b. Presenters did not have much information regarding this matter. So committee requested that someone with this information be present at this month’s full board meeting. An invitation was also extended to the business owners who use the Hot Bread Kitchen so that they would be able to have their concerns addressed at the full board.
4. Presenters went over statistics of the program. 66 women graduated last year. Roughly 90 percent of graduates receive job placement averaging roughly $15 dollars per hour. One graduate is now employed as a baker at Google.
   b. Union Settlement Update
      i. Pablo Guzman with support from Sandra DeLeone
      ii. No stats provided but their project manager Madeline Britt from SBS was present and provided the survey from 2015-16
      iii. Discussion of Ideas:
         1. Ways to improve marketing
         2. Ways to improve training
         3. Grant restrictions prevents awarding monetary prize to a group or single business
      iv. Pablo estimates that there are 778 businesses in East Harlem
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

Ms. Farrah adjourned the meeting at 8:05PM.